

Life of Moses

Storyteller: *Put the story bundle down in front of you where the children can see it, but leave it rolled up.* I wonder what this is. It looks mysterious. When we have the desert bag, we know

that we're going to have a story about one of the strange and wonderful things God did in the desert. When we have a parable box, we know that we can open up the parable to find the story about the story inside it. But what is this?

Unroll the bundle to show the small reed basket. There is a little baby in this basket. I remember a story about a little baby in a basket, who was put into the river Nile.

Unroll the bundle to the next object: the crown. This looks like it might be a crown. The baby in the basket was pulled from the water by a princess of Egypt, who might have worn a crown like this. She called him "Moses" because in her language that sounded like "I pulled him up."

Unroll the bundle to the next object: the staff. This looks like a shepherd's staff. Moses became a shepherd when he helped some shepherdesses who were being bullied. He stood up to the bullies, and then helped the girls draw water for their sheep.

Unroll the bundle to the next object: the snake. While looking after sheep one day, Moses heard God tell him to go to Egypt and make Pharaoh let God's people go. God turned that same shepherd's staff into a snake as a sign for Pharaoh. Later, Moses held that same shepherd's staff over the Sea of Reeds so that God's people could pass out of Egypt to freedom in the desert.

Unroll the bundle to the next object: the rock. When God's people were thirsty in the desert, Moses hit a rock with that same shepherd's staff, and water poured out of the rock so that God's people could drink.

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Sometime later, Moses left the lowlands of Moab. He went up Mount Pisgah to the peak of Mount Nebo,[a] which is across the Jordan River from Jericho. The Lord showed him all the land as far north as Gilead and the town of Dan. He let Moses see the territories that would soon belong to the tribes of Naphtali, Ephraim, Manasseh, and Judah, as far west as the Mediterranean Sea. The Lord also showed him the land in the south, from the valley near the town of Jericho, known as The City of Palm Trees, down to the town of Zoar.

4 The Lord said, "Moses, this is the land I was talking about when I solemnly promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that I would give land to their descendants. I have let you see it, but you will not cross the Jordan and go in."

5 And so, Moses the Lord's servant died there in Moab, just as the Lord had said. 6 The Lord buried him in a valley near the town of Beth-Peor, but even today no one knows exactly where. 7 Moses was a hundred twenty years old when he died, yet his eyesight was still good, and his body was strong.

8 The people of Israel stayed in the lowlands of Moab, where they mourned and grieved thirty days for Moses, as was their custom.

Joshua Becomes the Leader of Israel

9 Before Moses died, he had placed his hands on Joshua, and the Lord had given Joshua wisdom. The Israelites paid attention to what Joshua said and obeyed the commands that the Lord had given Moses.

Moses Was a Great Prophet

10 There has never again been a prophet in Israel like Moses. The Lord spoke face to face with him 11 and sent him to perform powerful miracles in the presence of the king of Egypt and his entire nation. 12 No one else has ever had the power to do such great things as Moses did for everyone to see.

Story Materials

Moses story bundle

- small reed basket with a tiny baby in it.
- Princess's crown
- Shepherd's staff
- snake
- desert rock
- piece of silk
- sand

Tray, basket or shallow open

Unroll the bundle to the next object: the silk scarf. When God led God's people to Mount Sinai, God spoke to Moses, and Moses' face shone so brightly with the light of God's glory that no one could look at him, so Moses covered his face with a scarf.

Unroll the bundle to the next object: the sand. Moses led God's people through the shifting sands of the dry, dangerous desert for forty years. He led them all the way to the edge of the promised land. From the hill-tops there he could see the land that God's people would have as their own to live in, but he himself never entered that land. Moses died before God's people entered the promised land, when he was a hundred and twenty years old, and God buried his body in a hidden place.

There has never again been a prophet in Israel like Moses.

Roll the bundle back up, and put your hand on it. Moses' life is an important story: we know God better because of it. Jesus told us that we can find God in any person's story. You have a story, too.